

As the NAACP itself has pointed out, "from the ballot box to the classroom the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African-Americans would be heard." We couldn't have said it any better.

If the Association's history was built on the blood, sweat and tears of its members and supporters who believe in its vision then it has earned its place in our minds and hearts.

Gordon is coming to New York to hail the resuscitation of the Brooklyn Branch, a development which comes a few years before the centennial anniversary of the NAACP itself and which sends a strong and positive signal to people around the country that the organization is vigorous and its future is secure.

We extend our congratulations to Gordon and to the officers and members of the Brooklyn branch that's led by Karen Boykin-Towns.

### TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to America's working men and women. These are the mineworkers, firefighters, nurses, janitors, postal employees, and hundreds of other workers who often are exposed to serious injury or even death while on the job. Friday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day, a time when we remember the thousands of Americans who have been killed or injured while doing their jobs.

I also want my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in taking a moment to remember Jeffrey Wroten, a Maryland Division of Correction's officer who was killed in January while guarding a hospitalized patient.

This also has been a deadly year for coal miners. In January, 12 miners died during the Sago Mine tragedy, and, Nation Wide, 24 coal miners have lost their lives this year. For the first time since 1994, there has been an increase in workplace fatalities. In 2005, more than 5,700 workers were killed on the job and more than 50,000 Americans died from occupational diseases.

We pledge to them that we will rededicate our efforts to fight for safe working conditions; we pledge to them that we will fight for decent wages; and we pledge to them that we will make sure they have good pensions and health care benefits.

I also want to commend the many unions throughout the Nation that work everyday to protect American workers. The best way to help ensure worker safety is to make sure workers have the freedom to join unions so they can fight for their rights.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring America's working men and women by ensuring they have the rights and protections they need to stay safe on the job.

### RECOGNIZING MS. KELLY SMITH AS MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of an educator in Baltimore County. Ms. Kelly Smith, chair of the English Department at Dulaney High School in Timonium, MD, is the recipient of the prestigious 2005–06 Milken Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award was established by Lowell and Michael Milken. They created the award to celebrate and reward people in the education system showing exemplary work.

This award, acknowledged in Teacher Magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" was designed to recognize people in the education system who have exceptional talent. Recipients play an instrumental role in developing new and inventive programs of study. These educators help to develop not just the curriculum, but also the students' confidence and self worth.

Dulaney's Kelly Smith has made great strides in the school's English Department. Her tremendous contributions have aided in the school's academic success. She developed "One Book, One Dulaney," a book club, in which students, teachers and parents participate. Throughout the year the club chooses a book to read and later discusses it, opening the lines of communication on all levels.

Ms. Smith also developed and co-chaired Students Organized for Academic Success. SOAR gives assistance to challenged students showing potential for scholastic achievement. She holds study sessions on Saturdays to prepare aspiring college students for the college entrance exam, the SATs.

Under Ms. Smith's leadership, test scores have greatly increased. She implements critical reading, thinking and vocabulary in her classroom. She also incorporates a "Readers' Theatre Project" giving students an opportunity to learn about literature through performance, writing and acting. This creates a new dimension of learning for students. They become a part of the process, which is both fun and educational.

I believe education is the key to success. Today's youth are the future of this country. People like Ms. Smith are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud all of those who devote their lives to the betterment of the education system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to commend Ms. Kelly Smith for winning the 2005–06 Milken Educator Award. She is truly an inspiration.

### EIGHTY YEARS OF RAZZLE- DAZZLE

#### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, a son of Massachusetts celebrated his 80th birthday in March.

Bob Crane, who won 11 statewide elections and held elective office for 34 years, is being feted by friends and family for a lifetime of public service and his unbeatable joy of life and politics.

Bob began his service to his country over 60 years ago when he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 during World War II. Bob is a decorated war hero and fought in the bloodiest battle of World War II in Okinawa. This son of Irish immigrants returned after the war to Boston where he attended Boston College, married his lovely Mary, had five great children and began a memorable career in politics.

First elected to the state legislature, Bob served an unprecedented 26 years as State Treasurer. Bob left office in 1991 but, as is often the case with extraordinary people, the best was yet to come. Bob entered the business world to become the CEO of the Nation's largest food brokerage firm, but continued his lifelong habit of being a volunteer entertainer at homes for the elderly, children and the needy in the Boston area with his wonderful group, the Treasury Notes. Some of his most ardent admirers are people who no longer see the caring hand of friendship and support in their lives.

Bob Crane has been called an equal opportunity schmoozer and is known as a bipartisan charmer. He answers his critics with a warm grin and a confidence that any negatives directed at him will bounce off like water on the back of the ducks in the Boston Common. He has won the admiration of both Republicans and Democrats at the State and national levels and his fans include this Ohioan who has joined him in singing the Findlay Ohio classic, "Down by the Old Mill Stream" to the delight of various political crowds.

A Boston Globe columnist once wrote, Crane is a full-plumage specimen of an endangered species: the warm-blooded, pre-Watergate politician who attends wakes, sings with a robust Irish tenor at weddings and nursing homes, and charms even his enemies with generosity and a smile as big as the Ritz.

Although Bob Crane is a Democrat and I am a Republican, and he loves the Red Sox while I am a Tiger fan, we share a mutual pleasure in golf; I agree with Mike Barnicle, the well-known columnist who wrote that Bob is one politician "who can still smile, who still thinks that politics means people, and one who takes his business but not himself that seriously."

Bob has been called the "Johnny Carson of Massachusetts politics," and having seen how he wins over even his toughest critics, I have to agree. Happy Birthday, Bob. Here's to 80 more years of razzle-dazzle.

### FREEDOM FOR OSCAR MARIO GONZÁLEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Oscar Mario González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González is an independent journalist and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian

Cuba. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom and rise in resistance to the despotic regime.

According to Reporters Without Borders, on March 24, 2005, Mr. González was summoned and questioned by regime agents, who threatened that he would not be able to see his family again if he continued practicing as an independent journalist. Despite these gangster tactics and heinous threats, Mr. González continued to demand basic human rights for the people of Cuba.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 22, Mr. González was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, over 30 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

According to CubaNet, Mr. González has been charged with violating Law 88. This is the same brutal, sham law that the tyrannical regime used to wrongly convict many of the pro-democracy activists arrested in March 2003. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Gonzalez is still awaiting trial for supposed "crimes."

On April 26, 2006, The Miami Herald published the following moving letter from Mr. González to his daughter:

In all the years that I have been by your side, you have never known me to pose a threat to anyone or anything, yet today I am writing to you from prison.

Neither one of us, in writing to each other for so many years, ever imagined we be doing it from a prison cell.

Such is life around these parts! Anything and everything can happen in this green island that so few really know about, weaving instead fantasies fed by the Cuban government's propaganda.

The reasons for my imprisonment would be incomprehensible to anyone living in the society you live in, but they are totally understandable to a Cuban.

I had the temerity to criticize and question the government of my country and to denounce its totalitarian character before the world. I did it in the only way I know, peacefully, with words.

For that, the Cuban government classifies us as criminals and calls us mercenaries and agents of U.S. imperialism. I swear to you that I have never had so much as a private conversation with any official of the United States or of any other country, for that matter.

Also, the only monies I have been paid from the only press agency for which I have ever worked, Cubanet, scarcely cover my few material needs.

The real reason for my confinement is to have denounced my country's government to a Cuban press agency in Miami, since the news media inside Cuba are closed to those, who like myself, exhibit independent criteria. Cuban media are only open to sycophants and apologists for the regime.

My conscience impels me to expose the abuses to which Cubans have been subject for more than 47 years now.

I never thought my modest contribution to the future of Cuba would go very far.

I'm a simple citizen who tried to make public the brutal nature of the Cuban gov-

ernment, thinking that would be my small contribution to the future of Cuba.

How was I to know my humble purpose would land me in prison at age 62 and in poor health?

My love for my country, for liberty and democracy, are the real causes for my imprisonment.

If some day you hear me say something that contradicts what I have said so far here, know that it is not your father speaking. It would be another man, reduced, drugged or in the throes of fear, and obligated to say whatever they wanted him to say under pressure of threats and blackmail.

I hope some day we can see each other again in our country, with liberty to walk down the street holding hands and looking to the future, without fear or hate.

Teach my grandson, next to the love of God and neighbor, the devotion to human rights and liberty so that he will never put up with injustice and abuses.

May God bless you, and may He allow me to kiss you soon.

Mr. González is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. His letter exemplifies the Cuban desire to live in liberty, free of the tyrannical repression imposed on them by the murderous despot. Read the strength of this letter, Mr. González knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction: "My conscience impels me to expose the abuses to which Cubans have been subject for more than 47 years now." Mr. González is an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and individual liberty are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. González, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. González is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, read his letter often. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Mario González and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. Senator ALLEN is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

We remember the words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address:

We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground winds its way along U.S. Route 15 from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Jefferson's home of Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Starting

as a trail used by the Susquehannock and Iroquois, America's early history can literally be traced along this corridor. Jefferson's Monticello, Madison's Montpelier, Monroe's Oak Hill and Ashlawn Highland, Zachary Taylor's homes, Eisenhower's Cottage, Teddy Roosevelt's Cabin, John Marshall's home, General George Marshall's home, and Camp David are situated along this route also dotted with numerous Civil War battlefields and sites from the underground railroad.

Designation of this historic route as a National Heritage Area will create a partnership between the Federal, State, and local governments as well as local civic organizations to commemorate, conserve and promote the history and resources along the Route 15 corridor between Gettysburg and Monticello. It will help link national parks to historical sites, package tourism opportunities, and provide financial and technical support for sites in the corridor.

This historic corridor includes a significant part of the 10th District of Virginia, which I am proud to represent. I echo the sentiments of author and historian David McCullough when he said that "[t]his is the ground of our Founding Fathers. These are the landscapes that speak volumes—small towns, churches, fields, mountains, creeks and rivers with names such as Bull Run and Rappahannock. They are the real thing, and what shame we will bring upon ourselves if we destroy them."

This bill is modeled after the legislation Senator WARNER and I introduced which created the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District in the Shenandoah Valley in 1996. Through that legislation, the Civil War battlefield sites in the Valley are being preserved. As with that bill, local, State and Federal officials, working along with landowners and business leaders will be able to better promote the history of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground attracting tourism and an appreciation for the unique history of this area.

I would like to thank the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership which has been working to forge partnerships that span the four States that fall within the proposed boundaries of the heritage area. This group has laid the groundwork in identifying the significant historical properties within such a concentrated area along U.S. Route 15. Dozens of towns and counties along the corridor have offered letters of support as have local civic groups. The Virginia General Assembly also has approved a resolution of support.

Thomas Jefferson in his Notes of the State of Virginia said:

You stand on a very high point of land. On your right comes up the Shenandoah, having ranged along the foot of the mountain a hundred miles to seek a vent. On your left approaches the Potomac, in quest of a passage also. In the moment of their junction, they rush together against the mountain, rend it asunder, and pass off to the sea. The first glance of this scene hurries our senses into the opinion that this earth has been created in time, that the mountains were formed first, that the rivers began to flow afterwards, that in this place, particularly, they have been dammed up by the Blue Ridge of mountains, and have formed an ocean which filed the whole valley; that continuing to rise they have at length broken over this spot, and have torn the mountains down from its summit to its base. The piles of rocks on each hand, but particularly on the Shenandoah, the evident marks of their